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THE NEGRO FARMER

Published in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; Especially Devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World, to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers.

Vol. 1. No. 2 TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., FEBRUARY 14, 1914 5c. Per Copy. $1.00 Per Year

FRIENDS

THE COLORED FARMER AND HIS CHURCH

ONE THING IT CAN DO FOR HIM DURING 1914

Whatever we may say and however we may feel that nowhere in the world today is the Christian Church doing all that it might do to cure the wickedness, right the wrongs, soften the injustices, and increase the social peace of our times, we must admit that without the church we should be in a bad way indeed. Nor must we deceive ourselves into believing that the church has lost all its influence. It has lost some of it, but by no means all; and when once it moves against a wrong or a practice, they must fight for their lives; and if a movement receives the support of the body of those who really follow the "Nazarene," that movement will go on from strength to strength because Jehovah is a strong God and His followers have been promised power to accomplish the desires of their hearts.

All these things are true of the colored church just as of other branches of the great church of God—indeed it is especially true of the colored church. Since emancipation came for the Negro, he has produced his ministers, scholars, teachers, lawyers, doctors, editors, business men, and all the other strong classes; but the greatest of all of these, in their influence upon the race has been the colored ministers and the church over which they have presided; and it remains true today that the colored church is still the greatest influence in the life of our people—what it can do for good or evil, with almost no support, what the combined strength of all the rest of us can not do. However imperfectly we may comprehend the nature of God; however faulty may be our conception of the nature of true worship; however far we may fall short in making our religion control and elevate our daily lives, we are still a race that loves God's Church and looks up to it as the supreme authority in human affairs.

Thank God for That!

And yet what an awful responsibility for the colored church and those who preside over it.

Under the sense of this great responsibility, the Negro Farmer is asking the colored ministry and churches of all denominations to co-operate with it in helping improve the social and economic life of the race. There is so much to be done and so few who are doing their best; and the church can help so much.

There is one definite thing, among many others, that the colored church can do during this year, in particular; that is, it can help keep colored folks out of the courts. If it do that, it will help keep them out of jail; and if it do that, it will lessen the number of those of our race who are called criminals. Anyone who knows the Negro well, understands that he is not a criminal at heart, though he repeatedly violates the law. But it is useless to expect that persons outside of the race will draw any such fine distinctions when they examine the criminal records of the races—they will do what nine hundred and ninety-nine men out of every one thousand will do; and that is, they will take the naked figures which stand for the Negroes who have been charged with crime, and use them to show how very criminally disposed we are. The thousandth man will search for the truth about the whole thing; he will ask and insist on having a number of things answered, and when he gets through, he will be able to show fairly and truly that the Negro is not altogether a monster of crime at heart.

But we cannot expect the nine hundred and ninety-nine other persons to do this, for if they did, it would mean that we have a world full of persons who always insist upon having the truth about a matter before they draw conclusions or speak about it. Such a condition need not ever be expected on earth before the dawn of the millenium. What the Negro must do now is to fight crime, everything that leads to it, seems to lead to it, and everything that makes people accuse him of crime, and here are some ways that the Scriptures have pointed out for the church to help:

I. Teaching That Christians Must Not Resent Everything

Writing to the Corinthian Church (I. Cor. 6: 7), Paul used these words:

"Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?" (Also—)

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves; but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." (Romans 12: 19)

But the Prince of Peace in His wonderful sermon on the mount, spoke plainly enough on this subject for all the world to understand. According to Luke's account, the Master said (Luke 12: 58)—

"When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, as thou art in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer ,and the officer cast thee into prison."

Matthew explains what was meant by the phrase "give diligence" by saying (Matt. 5: 25)—

"Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison."

The inference from all this is plain. The advice was given to the followers of Jesus; and it is the duty of the church, whatever the denominational cleavage, to teach Christians to be more ready than others are to bear a little injustice so that peace may result.

II. Using the Church as a Court of Justice

But since "it must needs be that offences come," and since two persons will not always adjust their differences, the Scriptures teach that the church should be used as a court for the settlement of grievances between any two Christians. The authority for this statement is found in the same chapter of Corinthians already quoted (6).

There Paul vigorously sets forth the proper method to be followed by using this language: "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?" arguing that since Christians or saints shall judge the world they surely should be able to judge such little matters as arise between brethren, and advising the Corinthian Church to name persons to judge such matters, Paul drives his argument further home by asking:

"Is it so that there is not a wise man among you? No, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers."

And Paul's Master, even Jesus, had already shown (Matt. 18: 15-17) how Christians, with the aid of the Church, must settle a matter when two brethren have a dispute, or grievance against each other.

With all of this light for guidance, the church among the colored people on the farm may be fairly expected to take more interest in settling disputes out of court; and reconciling men whose anger burns hot against each other.

To the Country School Teacher

There are hundreds of teachers at work in the country districts and small towns who can supplement their salaries and do some good at the same time by getting subscribers for The Negro Farmer.

We want every colored school teacher to feel that The Negro Farmer is meant to help him or her in his work and also to help the people in the community.

We will pay a liberal commission to teachers who want to act as our agents. Write at once for terms.

Address: The Negro Farmer
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

WINNERS FROM THE SOIL

COLORED HEROES OF THE FARM

JOHN BENSON, FARMER

Making the Stones Cry Out

This is the story of a colored man who had been a slave, but who went into the hills of Elmore County in Alabama, where the land was poor and by his careful and wise methods of farming, made a fortune, educated his children, and is today one of the most useful and respected citizens of the State.

In telling of the success of John Benson, a writer might be excused if he said that this man worked so patiently, so wisely, so carefully among the rocks which are to be found in all the fields and woods around him, that he made the stones cry out and obey him; for the land which he has made so valuable had to be prepared, first of all, by "gathering out the stones," as the Bible puts it.

In 1869, Mr. Benson began trying to buy a farm on Kowaliga Creek. It contained 160 acres of land so poor that three other farmers had tried to make a living on it but had given it up. At the end of the first year, Mr. Benson wanted to give up, too, and had decided not to make the first payment on the place, as he had promised to do. But his wife, with a woman's usual longing for a home of her own, said to him, "This is better than no home;" and so they decided to keep the land and try to finish paying for it. At the end of the second year, the farm was paid for; and for a number of years after that, he bought more land every year until at one time he owned five thousand acres.

But the thing about the man's success that is worth telling is not the fact that he owns so much land; because there is such a thing as owning too much land and being "land poor." This is not Mr. Benson's case, however. But the story that every colored farmer ought to know is how this man made his farm pay so well that he is now able to buy more land, if he wants it, and a great many other things besides.

When Mr. Benson bought his first farm, in the section which is now called Kowaliga, the land was producing no more than about a fifth of a bale of cotton to the acre. Now the same land yields anywhere from one to one and one-half bales to the acre.

How has it been done?

First of all, he mixed cotton seed, leaves, from the woods, and barnyard manure and made compost out of it; although he did not call it by any such "big name," in fact, it is not likely that he knew the meaning of the word at the time. This mixture or compost he put in trenches in his fields, during the fall seasons, and covered it with dirt. Buried beneath the top soil, it became heated and soon was well-rotted fertilizer, ready to help make the land yield a larger crop—ready to make the stones cry out, as it were, at sight of the abundant harvests which would come.

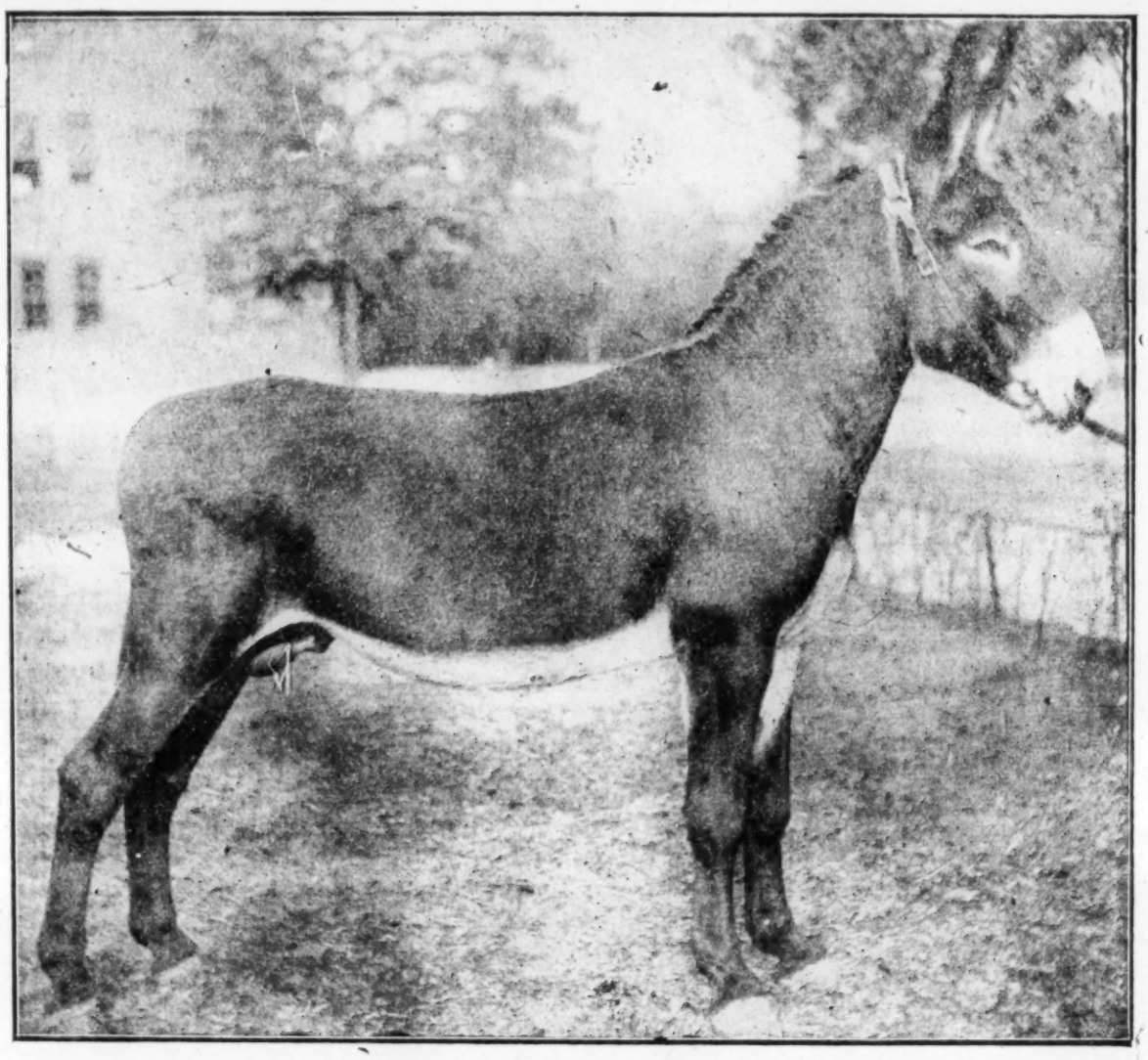
In addition to this, Mr. Benson has always penned his cows on different spots on his land, so that the manure which they dropped might help to further enrich the soil. But it was not all allowed to remain uncared for. He would gather the manure, spread it out, put a layer of leaves on top of it, then some cotton seed meal, and beat the whole mass down with a shovel. Then he would do the same thing all over until he had a large compost pile or manure heap for his land. In this way he made his cows help him keep the land fertile; and year after year, Mr. Benson's cotton grew better and his land yielded more to the acre.

Today this colored man owns lands that extend four miles on each side of Kowaliga Creek. Some of the land is in cultivation;

His son, Wm. Benson, has founded a good strong school at Kowaliga, which, together with the elder Benson, own more than twelve thousand acres of valuable land.

System, hard work, patience, honesty, and good hard "horse sense" have made this man a success. Looking backward over the journey he has come and remembering what he has done, he has a right to be proud because not only has he "made good," as the common saying is, but his story is certain to help some one else.

TAKING CARE OF THE MULE



THE FARMER'S FRIEND

To talk of farming in the South and say nothing about the mule—the one animal that our colored friends have dealt with for so long—is to talk of dinner without mentioning food. And yet how little attention is given to the care of the farm mule. There are many reasons why he deserves the best of care.

First, he is a money-maker. He is ready for work at four years of age, requires less food than any other animal of equal weight and size, and is less subject to diseases than other live-stock.

Second, he is better adapted to farm labor than the horse, and third his average period of service is about twenty-five years. If he fails to serve that long, it is usually because he has not had the most ordinary kind treatment. Below we give a few hints concerning the care of the mule, which those who work him will do well to observe:

Give your mule from ten to twelve quarts of grain every day, and about twelve pounds of hay. Sometimes you may grind his food, but he is very fond of corn fodder and hay. Put plenty of pure water where he can get it every night.

Keep his stable dry, and see that it is large enough for him to lie down in and rest at night. Be sure to take his halter off, so that he may be free to rest.

THE NEGRO FARMER

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In case of removal, be sure to notify us. If you fail to receive the paper regularly after subscribing for it, or if any error is noticed, subscribers will greatly help the paper by notifying us.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1914

KIND WORDS FROM THE GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE

(Governor Hooper's letter was received too late for our last issue.—Editor.)

"I regard agriculture as the most inviting field that is open to the Negro of the South. This is not because he is adapted to no other, but because he is not here circumscribed by unfair and discouraging limitations of trade and patronage. There is no discrimination against the products of the soil offered on the market by the Negro. The Negro doctor, lawyer, dentist, and undertakers may find their clientage very largely confined to their own race. Not so with the Negro farmer. The products of his agricultural skill and labor will be as eagerly sought by one race as another. I am referring here to a recognized condition and not a theory.

"Of course, I have in mind not simply the Negro farm laborer, but the Negro farmer who owns his own land or cultivates land upon his own responsibility.

"The time has passed when any intelligent man, black or white, feels that there is any condescension in the life and work of a farmer. It is not only the high calling of thrift and independence, but it affords the surroundings which are most conducive to the physical and moral well-being of the Negro at this stage of his development.

"I wish your new publication well, and trust that it may attain a good circulation in Tennessee.

"BEN W. HOOPER."

Drain your farm if you want your land to warm up early in the spring so that you can work it earlier.

The Two Friends

The picture on the first page of this paper is printed for several reasons. One is to call attention to the fact that the women and girls of the farm have a splendid opportunity to make some money for themselves by having cows on the place. The next reason is to call attention to the fact that if you want a cow to do her best in giving milk, you must not only feed her well, but must be very kind to her. And the last reason was to show an example of a cow that has received the very kindest treatment.

Look at the picture again, and you will be convinced that no cow would ever stand freely in such a position who did not love the person who deals with her. That cow has never been beaten over the head or body or cruelly spoken to. It was worth a bale of cotton to those who stood by when the photograph was being made, to see the girl quiet the cow by patting her on the neck and talking into her ear. Kindness pays with everything.

In Debt to Your Family

Every year the farmer tries to get out of debt to his landlord and merchant. That is right. All debts ought to be paid. But if one will examine the homes where most colored farmers live he will find that these men are in debt to their families for the work they do, and are not doing anything to pay off the debt. The Negro Farmer knows what you are going to say, Mr. Farmer, when you are told that your wife and children ought to have something for their work every year. You'll say that **they get just** what you do. But do they? They get food and clothes, of course; but what else? Said not the Master, "The life is more than meat, and the body more than raiment?" Your family should have some comforts besides.

Make it a rule this year to make one improvement for your home every time you buy something new for your farm. Give the wife money of her own to spend as she wants to, or let her have all that she makes. If you don't know how much her labor is worth, suppose you let her go visiting next month and hire some one to do her work. You'll learn. Give the children something that they want; not what you think they should want. Pay your debt to your family, Mr. Farmer.

Give the Children Something of Their Own

Some farmers expect their children to be contented to work on the farm every year and never get anything more than their food and the most common clothes. These children have to work early and late and have very little time for pleasures. The result is that they get dissatisfied and leave the farm as soon as they can. The Bible says that every laborer is worthy of his hire; and this means the farmer's children, too. Give the boy a horse of his own, or a part of the hogs he raises, or all that he can raise on a certain piece of land. Let the girl have one cow of her own, and all that she can make from the milk and butter. Whatever you give them, let them have it, and don't take it to pay your debts.

Some Articles Left Out

Owing to some news that could not be omitted this week, several articles which were planned for this issue had to be left out. They will appear next time.

Stop Getting Advances

We heartily wish that both white and colored people here in the South who are in the habit of making advances to our people would not begin making these advances so early in the year. We are sure that if the farmers found it impossible to get advances until the first of March or the first of April they would not go so far in debt, and at the end of the year would have more for themselves and for the person whose land they rent, and they would also have more with which to pay their indebtedness.

Resting on Saturday

The farmer and his family are due a little rest during the week; and no one wishes to give them "all work and no play;" but a great deal can be accomplished on the Saturdays that are so often used as holidays by many colored farmers. If you just must rest on Saturday, why not try the plan of resting on every seventh Saturday, working on each of the other six?

LET US HELP YOU

This paper is devoted wholly to trying to help people to become better housekeepers, and better farmers. Also, we aim to improve the country school and the country church.

If you have difficulties in regard to housekeeping, if you have trouble with your garden, or if you want information on farming, write us freely. We want to keep in direct, close touch with all of our readers. We want them to feel whenever they have difficulties we are here to help them as far as possible.

Let us hear not only of your troubles, but of your success. If you have made a particular success in any line of housekeeping, or gardening, farming, or in school or church work, let us hear from you. What you have done will inspire some one else, perhaps, to do the same thing.

Working Ahead

The successful farmer is the man who plans his work far ahead and pushes it. January, February, March, are mighty important months for the farmer. If the farmer gets behind in the preparation of his land or the planting of the seed during these months he is likely to remain behind all the year. It is better to be too far ahead than too far behind in farming.

Tuskegee Negro Farmers' Conference Breaks Record in Attendance

Fully 2,500 colored farmers and their families attended the Negro Conference at Tuskegee Institute on February 21st. It was the largest conference ever held at Tuskegee.

Two features made the sessions notable and important. The first was the agricultural parade, which was made up of farmers of Alabama, students in the Institute's Short Course in Agriculture and also the regular course. Concerning the parade, the Montgomery Advertiser said:

An old man with a cob pipe, driving a steer drawing a wooden plow represented the Negro farmer of fifty years ago; an old man with a small mule and a scooter plow represented the next step forward. He was followed by another with a one-horse turning plow; and still another with a good mule and a one-horse turning plow. The present day progressive farmer was represented by a man who drove two mules and a two-horse turning plow.

Machinery, representing successively each step in progressive farming, the four-horse gang plow, the disc harrow, a roller, a seed drill, a mower, binder, load of oats, thresher and gasoline engine, corn harvester, cotton stalk chopper and transplanter, made up the second section of the parade. The spectacle was greeted with cheers by the assembled farmers.

The agricultural work of the Institute was represented by floats. The orchard, canning factory, poultry yard, with incubators and girls dressing chickens, all were reproduced in the moving spectacle. The swine herd, with students feeding them, two bulls, six cows, a creamery float with girls making butter, and a number of young mules, a percheron stallion and four-grade percheron colts represented the work of the school in stock raising. One of the floats showed boys in the veterinary division at work treating a cow.

Everything from road building and surveying to agricultural bookkeeping was represented in one or another of the different floats. An automobile, laden with agricultural products, bore the inscription, "Our Opportunity Today in the South." The work of the rural schools was also represented in the procession.

The other noteworthy feature of the Conference was the health car educational exhibit sent to the meeting by the State of Louisiana through the efforts and good-will of Dr. Oscar Dowling, of the Board of Health of that State; and the exhibit made by the National Child Welfare Committee of New York.

In the health car were shown some of the results of ignorance of the causes of diseases. The common house fly was shown in his true character as the filthiest and one of the most dangerous insects known; and the mosquito's part in spreading disease was also described. The effects of sleeping with a room closed tightly were made clear and the lesson was taught that all rooms in a house must have a good supply of fresh air all of the time. In addition to the exhibits, Dr. Dowling gave several health talks to all of the people present.

The Child Welfare Exhibit, in charge of Miss Emily C. Coye, of New York, attracted equally as much attention; and it was encouraging to those who love the race and have its interests at heart to note how carefully the farmers and their families examined the exhibits and listened to the explanations given on the proper way to care for babies and children so that so many of them need not die.

Dr. W. H. Sanders, president of the Alabama State Board of Health, also delivered a powerful address on the care of the health to the farmers who remained for the Workers' Conference.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the exhibit gotten up by Mr. Monroe Work, of the Department of Statistics, of Tuskegee Institute, showing the money loss to the South of the Negroes who sicken and die every year because of ignorance of the laws of health. This mass of valuable information is to be printed so that the farmers can get it.

The "Honor Roll" delegates to the Conference were, that is, the men who made good reports were:

Henry Ford, Dallas County, Alabama, who owns 124 acres of land, raises pigs, chickens, cows, and cotton, and who, although he married 46 years ago, has never eaten "mortgaged meat." Wiley Crenshaw, Butler County, Alabama, owner of 500 acres of land and a nice home. He raises his own meat, has five horses and cows and lends money.

E. T. Williams, Harris County, Georgia, owner of 378 acres of land and prosperous stock-owner.

Moses Jones, Madison County, Alabama, owns 390 acres of land, married 30 years, and has saved 50 cents for each day of his married life. Has also a 7-room house, containing a bath room.

A young man, J. W. Mitchell, of Randolph County, Alabama, was awarded a silver cup and also $10.00 in gold for having made the greatest progress during the Tuskegee Institute Agricultural Short Course.

Spendid reports as to improved conditions among colored farmers were made by Prof. J. L. Wingfield, of the Lomax-Hannon School; Rev. P. G. Brown, representing the Black Belt District Farmers' Association; Anderson Judkins, of Bullock County; and Allen Shaw, of Tallapoosa County—all in Alabama.

The Conference adopted the following declarations before adjourning:

Declarations Twenty-third Tuskegee Negro Conference

January 21, 1914.

For the twenty-third time the Tuskegee Negro Conference says to the Negroes of the South "Stay on the soil, buy land, improve your farm, have more gardens, raise your food-stuffs, build better churches and schoolhouses, lengthen your school terms, and have better equipped preachers and teachers."

The report made here today that 225,000 Negro farm owners have acquired 20,000,000 acres of land, an area greater than the State of South Carolina, and the many instances of improvement in methods of farming, in building better farm homes, and in improving rural churches and schools, indicate that the advice of the Conference is being heeded.

There is, however, much room for improvement along all lines. Almost 80 per cent of the Negro farmers in the South still rent the soil they till. A large majority of the farm homes are yet without gardens—too many of our people are still living out of the stores. We find that there is too often a tendency for a farmer to buy too much land. The Conference strongly advises the people when buying land not to buy more than they can profitably farm and successfully pay for. The Conference further advises that more attention be given to the business side of farming and that careful accounts be kept of all receipts and expenditures so that each farmer may know whether he is making or losing money.

The boll weevil is here. In order to meet its ravages the Conference says to the Negro farmers of Alabama and other States: Follow the directions of the agricultural experts, diversify your crops, grow more oats, corn and sweet potatoes, raise more livestock, do not depend entirely on cotton.

Every intelligent Negro farmer helps to advance the farming progress of the South; every ignorant Negro farmer retards this progress. The Conference, therefore, respectfully requests that through individual planters, state aid, and otherwise, more be done to improve Negro rural schools, to provide more prizes for Negro farmers, and more agricultural demonstration agents to teach the farmers on the soil. All of these things will help to increase the efficiency of the Negro farmer. We appreciate and are grateful for what has already been done, for the growing spirit of helpfulness and co-operation that is manifested by the white people of the South; and for the increasing number of planters who are taking a deeper interest in their tenants, providing for them better school facilities, better homes, and in every way encouraging them to improve and help keep up the property on which they live. We would, however, respectfully call attention to the pitiable condition of the majority of Negro rural schools, too many of which are still unprovided with school buildings, have teachers receiving from $15.00 to $18.00 per month, and terms only two or three months in length. To help teach the one million Negro farmers better methods of farming, and thus make them more efficient, there are thoroughout the South less than fifty Negro agricultural demonstration agents.

THE "BIG WORDS" AND EVENTS EXPLAINED

FARMERS' DICTIONARY

Compost means a mixture for fertilizing land. It is made by mixing a number of things together as stable manure, muck, mold, and lime and allowing them to rot.

Mulch is half-rotten straw, grass, weeds or anything else of the kind that is placed on the ground to protect the roots of plants from heat or drought, and to help keep the soil moist and damp.

Larvae are young insects just hatched from the eggs.

Pupae are these same insects after they get a little older and just before they become full grown.

Germinate means to sprout. We say that a seed is germinating when it begins to sprout.

Insecticides are preparations used to destroy insects.

Hibernate means to pass the winter in a half-sleep condition as if dead. Many insects pass through the cold season in this way.

When your house leaks, you "chink" up the cracks. All right; do the same thing with the houses where your horses, mules, and cows live.

Work Being Done by the Federal Government for the Negro Farmer

For a number of years, trained men have studied the problems that confront all farmers and some remedies for them. These remedies and suggestions have been printed from time to time; but it is just now beginning to be realized that the farmers who need this information do not get it, and that much of the labor spent in writing little books on agriculture has been thrown away.

Recognizing this, the United States Government has begun to seek means by which this information can be carried direct to the farmers through a plan called "Farm Demonstration work." The plan consists of having a few farmers cultivate a part of their land under the direction of men and agents who are selected for the work, because of their knowledge of, and practical experience in, farming, by the Federal Department of Agriculture.

The purpose of the whole movement is to have "the simple and well-established principles of successful farming" taught directly to men on the farms. At present, it is sought to show farmers how the boll weevils may be gotten around and defeated, and best methods of growing and using such crops as cotton, corn, cowpeas, and oats in the South.

It has been decided to extend this help to the Negro as well as other farmers; and it is interesting to know that such colored farmers as have taken advantage of this opportunity to learn better methods of farming have really "made good," as the saying is. The United States director of this work, Mr. Bradford Knapp, has the following to say of those farmers:

> The result of Demonstration Work among colored farmers in the South has been extremely gratifying. The 34 colored agents who work entirely with farmers of their own race have enrolled about 6,000 demonstrators and co-operators and, in addition, every white agent has some colored demonstrators and co-operators. It is estimated that altogether probably 20,000 colored farmers are being reached by this work. These men accept the instructions willingly and are rapidly becoming better farmers. Not only are they learning how to increase the production on their lands, but the influence of the work extends to bettering home surrounding and social conditions. Under instructions the colored farmers are rapidly learning how to become self-supporting, the amount of foodstuffs having been greatly increased. * * * In addition to the great increase per acre in production of crops grown, we have also reports of 104 homes remodeled or newly built, 98 whitewashed or newly painted, and 85 new barns and outbuildings built in addition to thousands of dollars' worth of farm machinery being purchased by these colored demonstrators and co-operators; and reports show that more than $10,000 worth of canned fruits and vegetables were put up by them for home use during (one) year.
>
> The demand for work among the colored farmers is growing rapidly, faster than the Department is able to supply demands.

This is indeed gratifying, and it is earnestly hoped by the friends of colored farmers everywhere that they will use these opportunities to become better acquainted with newest methods of agricultural work.

HINTS ON HOG RAISING

The Department of Agriculture at Washington, has prepared some hints to boys who plan to raise hogs; and the points given are so helpful that they are printed here, not only for the boys, but for the older farmers as well.

It is the purpose of the Department to start as many boys to raising hogs in the South as it can. While there is a good market for pork all the time, if the young people do not want to raise hogs to sell, it is hoped that they will be encouraged to raise at least enough meat to feed the whole family all the year.

Here are some of the hints given on hog raising which the Department tells the boys to remember:

1. It is as important to feed and care for a hog properly as it is to have good stock. Plenty of feed and good care may make a good hog out of a runt, but lack of it will always make a runt out of a good pig.

2. If you want to make pork cheaply you must have a regular pasture and must use corn, hay, grass, and the like.

3. Young pigs must have a dry bed and plenty of sunshine.

4. Begin feeding your pig as soon as he will eat, and keep him growing until he "grows up."

5. Always keep plenty of clean, fresh water where the hogs may drink at any time.

6. Keep all the hogs that you have just bought away from the others for three weeks to see if they have any disease.

7. Don't keep any brood sow that will not have more than four strong pigs at one time.

8. The more milk a sow will give the faster her pigs will grow.

9. Lice prevent a hog from doing well.

10. Always keep a mixture of charcoal, wood ashes, lime, sulphur, salt, and copperas where the hogs can get to it.

The Department also gives the following hints on how to keep your hogs from having cholera:

Don't have your hog lots next to roads, railroads, or streams. If your neighbor's hogs have cholera, do not allow any one from his farm to visit your farm, and especially your hog lots or pens, and keep away from your neighbor's hog lot whether his hogs have cholera or not.

Do not keep pigeons or allow them to light on your premises.

Keep away crows and buzzards. Put all new hogs that you buy off to themselves until you are sure they are free from disease.

Don't allow a patent-medicine man on your place, for you do not know how long it has been since he visited a sick herd of hogs or was on a farm where they were.

Disinfect your wagon and your own shoes and clothes after hauling hogs to stock yards or railroad loading pens. To disinfect means to sprinkle something like lime, carbolic acid, cresol, creolin, or creo-naphtolin around places or on things to kill the little germs that make disease. Carbolic acid is best. Mix five parts of the acid with one hundred parts of water and use. The acid is poison, remember.

Avoid every possible way of carrying cholera to your hogs.

The most important thing is to prevent your hogs from getting the cholera. It is much easier to do this than it is to cure the disease.

If you want further information concerning this work, write a letter of inquiry about it to Mr. Bradford Knapp, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and you will be told all about the "Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration Work."

It is the duty of every farmer to find out whether he can secure some of this aid that the Government is supplying free to advance the cause of agriculture.

Garden Work for February and March

During February, in the Southern States, the gardener should sow beans, cabbage, white leaved collards, spinach, beets, turnips, rutabagas, carrots, peas, squashes, melons, and sugar corn. Also early potatoes should be planted.

The Extra early peas and the American Wonder are good ones. Plant the early ones first, then follow with the American Wonder, the Premium Gem, and the Advancer.

The cabages, turnips, and rutabagas must have rich well-tilled soil. This is the month to take up and set out the cabbage and lettuce plants that have already been sown. Don't be afraid the cold weather will kill everything. Some come anyhow.

In March, plant more beans and peas, potatoes, leeks, and a few turnips. And some tomatoes should be sown in a warm place. Mustard and lettuce should be sown every two weeks. Get some extra early red onions and extra early yellow ones and plant, also.

Watermelons, extra early canteloupes, Reedland Giant muskmelons, Landreth's long green pod okra, pumpkins, and squashes all should be planted in this month. The turnips, rutabagas, and beets planted in February should be thinned out and worked. Cabbages and lettuce must have plenty of manure and should be well cultivated.

By the way, nearly all of the healthy strong boys and girls who enter the various colored schools are from the country; and they seldom get sick, either. The country is a healthful place and people on the farm live a long time.

THE BUSINESS CHAT

You are not really a subscriber to The Negro Farmer, dear reader? If you are not, why not? If you are a subscriber to the first farm paper ever published for Negro farmers, then help us to put this paper into the homes of others, please. Every Negro farmer, and those interested directly or indirectly in agriculture among our people, should subscribe for this publication. There are four good reasons why this ought to be done:

1. Every person directly engaged in or interested in farming, should be a regular reader of at least three good, reliable farm papers.

2. We either go forward or backward in any line of activity—we never stand still—inasmuch as the average farmer desires progress, he should make it his duty to study live, up-to-date farm journals.

3. This paper is an instructor, is an intellectual agent; and as such ought to be read and followed.

4. As an advertising medium it has a new field—a field all by itself. That should not by any means be overlooked by the farmer, country merchant, rural preacher, teacher or city wholesaler and manufacturer.

Therefore, let The Negro Farmer into your home as a farm instructor and advertising medium.

Ever banker has his special financial papers, every doctor his medical journals, every tradesman his trade journals. Farming is more important than any of these. We want our farmers to be just as widely informed about their farming business as the most progressive men are in other lines. A farm paper comes to you regularly and keeps you thinking—keeps you alert; keeps you "gingered up" to make your farming business pay more, not only in dollars and cents, but also in better living. Let everybody become actively interested in The Negro Farmer, the real live Negro agricultural paper. It is here; and has come to stay.

—o—

Be sure to subscribe for The Negro Farmer, the greatest Negro farm paper published. Have you really subscribed for it? Now is the time to act.

Miss School Teacher, Mr. Preacher, Master Schoolboy, here is your opportunity. You can earn big money securing subscribers for our great farm publication. You only work during spare time. Write us for terms. Don't wait; write us today, for particulars. See?

If you have anything to sell, advertise it in this paper. If you want to dispose of your farm, or city property, if you desire to sell cattle, land, horses, farm implements, etc., let The Negro Farmer carry your advertisement. Very likely it will help you dispose of your products. Try an ad with us.

We could, if we desired, print many scores of fraudulent advertisements; but are refusing them. Please bear in mind that whisky and fraud advertisements are really not desired. Included in this list are "hair-straightening" ads. Our subscribers and readers are our friends, and we will not knowingly introduce them to fakes who, with every good intention, may desire to make assaults on the pocket-books of our friends. Wherever we can, we want to protect our friends.

In writing to advertisers, just say "I saw your ad in The Negro Farmer."

—o—

Keeping Down Weeds in the Garden

The best way to keep weeds out of the garden is to pull them up when they are but an inch or more high, cut them up with a hoe, disturb the soil in which they are growing with a cultivator, turn them under with a plow or smother them with waste material. Weeds should never be allowed to go to seed, but should be kept cut down all the time.

When you take young plants out of beds and set them out you can keep the weeds from around them by "mulching;" that is, by covering the soil all around the plant with three to four inches of dry hay, green grass, green weeds, or dried leaves. These not only keep the weeds down, but keep the soil near the plant from getting too dry. This mulching can be done in a small home garden with very little trouble.

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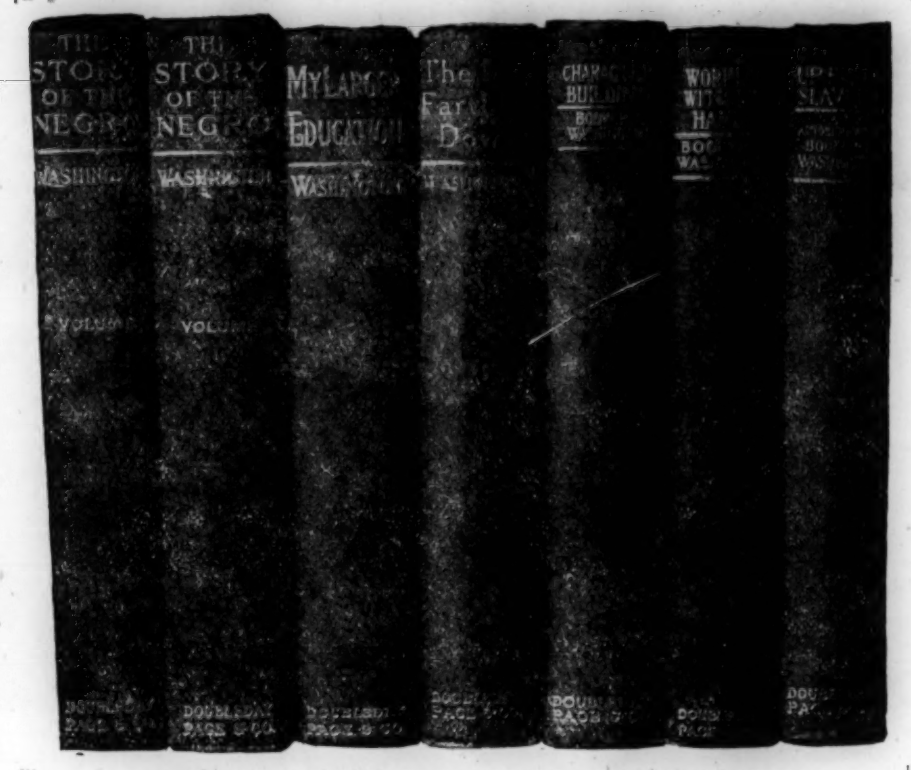

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THE NEGRO FARMER

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It has been decided to publish at Tuskegee Institute Post Office, Every-Other-Week for the present, a national farm paper to be known as THE NEGRO FARMER. It will be published in the interest of Negro landowners, tenant farmers and of those who employ Negro labor. There is no other strictly farm newspaper in the world devoted to the interest of Negro farmers.

Many of the white farm newspapers enjoy huge circulations and there is no reason why a farm paper in the interest of Negroes should not prove equally successful. In fact, occupying an exclusive field it should enjoy a success far beyond that of the usual farm publication. It is proposed to circulate this paper among the 2,000,000 black farmers of the United States. The paper will be eight pages, of about the size of "The Country Gentleman."

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